

DRAFT**Sullivan County NH****Type of Meeting:****Sullivan County Full Delegation****Date / Time:****17 November / 9:30 am****Place:****Newport County Complex—Probate Courtroom****Participants:**

Representatives: Peter Franklin (Chair), Ellen Nielsen (Clerk), Larry Converse, Tom Donovan, Sue Gottling and Beverly Rodeschin.

Commissioners: Ethel Jarvis

Representatives-Elect: Jim McClammer, Joe Osgood and Cynthia Sweeney

County Treasurer-Elect: Dave French

County Employees: County Administrator Greg Chanis and Nursing Home Manager Ted Purdy

Public Observer: Don Clarke

Press: Ben Bulkeley, *Eagle-Times*.

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Franklin at 9:35 am.

Approval of Minutes:

Copies of the draft minutes of the delegation meeting of 15 October 2008 were provided for the delegation to review. However, since there was not a quorum at this meeting, those minutes could not be approved. Since this was the final meeting of this delegation, and the re-elected members of this delegation who attended the October 15 meeting and this meeting do not constitute a quorum, it may not be possible to vote to approve the minutes of the October 15 meeting or this meeting at the first meeting of the new delegation. Mr. Chanis agreed to consult with County Attorney Hathaway regarding this impasse.

Public Participation:

The only member of the public present was Mr. Clarke, who did not ask to speak.

Review of FY 2009 County Finances:

Mr. Purdy passed out two spreadsheets and reviewed the financial status of the nursing home. While the actual revenue to date falls short of the projected revenue in the FY 09 budget by about \$86,000 because the actual daily census figures are lower than projected, the actual expenses to date fall short of the projected expenses in the budget by \$443,740. However, this apparent surplus does not include some anticipated expenses which will change the picture. In order to address the low census figure by getting new referrals, the nursing home is doing some public outreach at the Alice Peck Day Hospital in Lebanon NH. Mr. Purdy also talked about the nursing home's attempts to recruit and train new staff in order to reduce reliance on agency nursing.

During Mr. Purdy's presentation, Rep. Franklin had to leave for a meeting in Concord, and asked the Clerk, Rep. Nielsen, to preside over the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Cunningham was not present to give a report on the financial status of the Department of Corrections, but the county administrator, Mr. Chanis, stated that the department was running a surplus.

As part of his general report on county finances, Mr. Chanis passed out a "snapshot" of the county finances which shows that there is a year to date surplus of \$467,521, which is derived by subtracting the actual expenses as of this date from the total projected appropriations as of this date and subtracting the accrued amounts for the next payroll and payment on health insurance. It was noted that the nursing home revenue shortfall of \$86,000 from this figure also should be subtracted from this figure. The actual revenues from the office of the Registry of Deeds are consistent with projected revenues. Mr. Chanis said that there had been some unanticipated revenue for the county from timber sales and from the \$20,000 payment (raised by a private group) for the conservation easement on the Judkins property in the town of Unity.

Mr. Chanis answered questions from several representatives about the proposed shooting range near the Unity county complex. He said that Sheriff Prozzo has requested a shooting range for use by law enforcement officers. A local non-profit sportsman's group has offered to pay for the facility in exchange for being allowed to use it. Although this seems like a win-win proposal (except for the abutting property owners) Mr. Chanis cautioned that the project must be approved by the Unity planning board. In response to questions about zoning in Unity from several representatives, Rep. Nielsen asked Commissioner Jarvis, a longtime Unity resident, to explain the procedures of the Unity planning board. It appears that if the proposed shooting range is built by a private entity, rather than the county, it may be more difficult to secure approval for the project.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

The date and time for the organizational meeting of the next full delegation should be set by the incoming delegation rather than this outgoing delegation, but legally, the meeting should occur during the week of December 8-12. Mr. Chanis is assisting in the process of scheduling the organizational meeting by polling the re-elected representatives and the new representatives-elect regarding the most convenient date. It seems likely that the organizational meeting for the new delegation will be scheduled for Wednesday, December 10. Rep. Gagnon, the current vice-chair, will preside over that meeting until the new officers are elected. There appeared to be no more business to be transacted by this delegation, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned by Rep. Nielsen at about 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Rep. Ellen Nielsen, Delegation Clerk